

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3175

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

SUMMISSION USBERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 6606

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, PFOR, GE, US

SUBJECT: GDR INTEREST IN LONG-TERM GRAIN AGREEMENT

REF: BERLIN 6557

1. AMBASSADOR COOPER CALLED ON FOREIGN TRADE STATE SECRETARY BEIL AUGUST 31 AT BEIL'S REQUEST. DR. BEIL WENT QUICKLY TO THE SUBJECT OF A GRAIN AGREEMENT, ADDING NOTHING TO PREVIOUS STATEMTNST OF THE GDR POSITION, BUT STRESSING THAT THE GDR HAS ALREADY COVERED ITS NEEDS FOR THE 1976/1977 CROP YEAR; AND THAT THE GDR IS A GRAIN DEFICIT COUNTRY THAT WOULD LIKE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH THE US ON IMPORTING AT LEAST 1.5 TONS OF FEED AND FOOD GRAINS ANNULALLY FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

2. DRAWING ON DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, AMBASSADOR COOPER TOLD BEIL THAT THE QUESTION WAS BEING GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON AND THAT A RESPONSE WILL BE GIVEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO THE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE ARTICLE, SAYING THAT IT WAS NOT CORRECT IN ALL RESPECTS. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE QUESTION IS BEING CONSIDERED ON ITS OWN MERITS, AND NOT IN CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER MATTER IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

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TIONSHIP.

3. BEIL SAID IF AND WHEN THE EMBASSY GETS A REPLY, HE
WOULD AUTHORIZE THE GDR EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO
ENGAGE IN PRELIMINARY TALKS WITH US OFFICIALS TOWARD
AN AGREEMENT. COOPER

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Message Attributes

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